



## **Palm Sunday: The Lamb King**

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Greg Wendschlag

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*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly, and riding on a donkey.” Zech. 9:9*

### I. The Religious Context of Palm Sunday

*Three times a year you must appear before the Lord your God.” Dt. 16:16; Lev. 23*

- The Feast of Passover: Celebrating God’s salvation and punishment.
- The Feast of Unleavened Bread: Celebrating purity before God.
- The Feast of First Fruits: Celebrating the new promises of God.
- The lamb was not taken, the Lamb King came and offered Himself.

*The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!” Jn. 12:12-13*

### II. The Historical/Political Context of Palm Sunday

- King of Syria, Antiochus the IV, overtakes Jerusalem and desecrates the Temple. 167bc
- The Samaritans side with Antiochus against the Jews.
- Rome becomes an ally to Judea against Syria.
- Hanukkah is the celebration of Judas Maccabaeus successful revolt regaining and repairing the Temple. 164bc
- The King came to bring peace, riding on a donkey.

*Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the Temple area walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. The Jews gathered around Him saying, How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jn. 10:22-24*

### III. The Spiritual Context of Palm Sunday

- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead between Hanukkah and Passover.
- Jesus foretells His death on His way to the Passover Feast.
- While on the way, Jesus heals two blind men, stops at the home of Zacchaeus, and is anointed by Mary.
- The Lamb King appeared, and heaven roared.

*As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace....Then a voice came from heaven...” Lk. 19:41-42; Jn. 12:28*

### Thoughts for Prayer

- Come with an honest heart of confession before Jesus.
- Ask Him to search your heart and cleanse you.
- Rejoice with thanksgiving for your salvation.